

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

November 19, 2015

The Honorable Thad Cochran
Chairman
Senate Committee on Appropriations
S-128, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Barbara Mikulski
Ranking Member
Senate Committee on Appropriations
S-146A, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Hal Rodgers
Chairman
House Committee on Appropriations
H-305, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nita Lowey
Ranking Member
House Committee on Appropriations
1016 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairmen Cochran and Rodgers, and Ranking Members Mikulski and Lowey:

We write to request that as you negotiate and finalize legislation to fund the government for the remainder of FY16, you adopt the funding levels established in the November 10, 2015 Senate-passed amendment to H.R. 2029 for Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) major construction projects.

The funding level in this version of H.R. 2029 is consistent with the VA budget request for FY 2016 and will ensure that our veterans have access to state-of-the-art medical care and services that they deserve. In particular, this appropriation would fund many critical projects, including the construction of a new community based outpatient clinic (CBOC) located in French Camp, California. The French Camp CBOC will serve an estimated 87,000 veterans across a large geographic area that includes San Joaquin, Stanislaus, Calaveras, Tuolumne and Amador Counties, among others.

California's Central Valley veterans face many challenges accessing the care they need from the VA, with hours of travel required for even routine appointments. Congress approved the Central Valley community based outpatient clinic and community living center in 2004 as part of the VA's Capital Asset Realignment for Enhanced Services initiative. In 2010, Congress appropriated \$55 million for land acquisition and to fund construction planning. This project is now 'construction ready' in every sense – and our Central Valley veterans are eager to see progress on a project promised to them in 2004.

Given the critical lack of adequate health care facilities for veterans in the Central Valley, we request that the funding levels for VA major construction projects in the Senate-passed amendment to H.R. 2029 are included in the FY 2016 omnibus spending package.

Thank you for your commitment to ensuring our veterans receive the highest level of care and for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



Jeff Denham
United States Representative



Jerry McNerney
United States Representative

Cc: Sen. Mark Kirk, Chairman, Senate Subcommittee on Military Construction, Veterans Affairs and Related Agencies; Sen. Jon Tester, Ranking Member Senate Subcommittee on Military Construction, Veterans Affairs and Related Agencies; Rep. Charlie Dent, Chairman, House Subcommittee on Military Construction, Veterans Affairs and Related Agencies; Rep. Sanford Bishop, Subcommittee on Military Construction, Veterans Affairs and Related Agencies;